



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

**OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

ORIGINAL SIGNED 12-1-04

Ms. Laurie Allen
Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service - 13th Floor
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Allen:

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), respectfully requests the initiation of Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 7(a)(2) consultation. This consultation request addresses 20 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of Pacific salmon and steelhead that have been listed as Federally endangered or threatened and one pesticide active ingredient registered by EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) for uses within the range of the listed ESUs. The pesticide active ingredient subject to this request is **Carbofuran** which is an insecticide used on crops and non-crop sites. Carbofuran is registered for many crops, but is used primarily on alfalfa, potatoes, and cotton.

As you are aware, we are beginning the process of reviewing the potential effects of carbofuran use to all listed species. The Office of Pesticide Programs is developing a "Reregistration Eligibility Science Chapter for Carbofuran" which includes both a deterministic and a probabilistic assessment of the ecological risks from carbofuran use. This preliminary document is presently being refined to be consistent with OPP's current guidance for ecological risk assessment as contained in the overview document. Subsequent to these refinements, the document will be subjected to error correction and public comment through the standard reregistration review processes. We have used the preliminary document as the starting basis for this analysis of potential effects to listed Pacific anadromous salmonids. Should the refinements, error correction and public review of the ecological risk assessments result in changes to the document, those changes will be discussed with NOAA Fisheries in the context of this consultation.

Carbofuran has high laboratory toxicity to fish and aquatic invertebrates. OPP has determined that effects of concern would be directly on listed salmon and steelhead and would vary for different uses and ESUs. Carbofuran may affect salmon and steelhead food or cover, or adversely modify their Critical Habitat from registered uses. OPP has further determined that some uses of Carbofuran may affect three salmon and steelhead ESUs, may affect but is not likely to adversely affect eighteen ESUs, and will have no effect on three ESUs. I am requesting formal consultation relative to the 3 ESUs for which a “may affect” determination has been made.

I am requesting your concurrence on our determination that use of Carbofuran is not likely to adversely affect 18 ESUs. The specific determinations for each ESU are summarized in a table at the end of the enclosed assessment.

The primary threats for the ESUs subject to this consultation have been the continued development of the western states for a variety of human-related activities, including residential and commercial development, agriculture, and forestry, along with genetic swamping of certain ESUs by unrelated hatchery stocks. These activities have resulted in barriers to upstream and downstream migration, loss of available water, reduced water quality, physical modification of aquatic and riparian habitat. Excessive harvesting may also have played a role in their decline. Listing of these salmon and steelhead ESUs has sensitized the public to the need to provide protection. As a result, California has included them in their “Interim Measures” county bulletins for protecting endangered and threatened species, thus providing some protection from pesticide use. Washington state has formed a task force which is working with NMFS and others to address pesticide use in that state. Oregon has developed specific projects that involve pesticide use and salmon and steelhead. We are unaware of any specific measures in place in Idaho that address pesticides.

We look forward to working with NMFS to protect and help recover listed species. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (703) 305-5239, or your staff may contact my Senior Scientist, Ms. Ann Stavola at (703) 305-5354.

Enclosures

Sincerely,

Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Chief
Environmental Field Branch (7506C)

cc: Craig Johnson